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Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Algeria*: draft resolution

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Acknowledging the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "The future we want",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[2]

2. *Also takes note* of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/207, in which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

3. *Further takes note* of the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

4. *Recognizes* that, as the progress made in improving the lives of slum dwellers has not been enough to counter the growth of informal settlements in the developing world, the overall reduction in the world's urban divide requires greater effort, since the "absolute number" of slum dwellers has actually increased from 776.7 million in 2000 to some 827.6 million in 2010, and in this regard calls for the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] E/2012/65.

redoubling of efforts to support national plans to improve the lives of the urban and rural poor across the developing world;

5. *Also recognizes* that urban sprawl adds to the urban divide, pushing social segregation along economic lines that result in spatial differences in wealth and quality of life across various parts of cities and metropolitan areas, run-down inner cities and suburbs, and in this regard reiterates the need for the international donor community and financial institutions to redouble efforts to support a national plan and strategies to improve the lives of the urban and rural poor across the developing world;

6. *Encourages* Governments to support UN-Habitat's work and existing cooperation, within its mandate and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, on issues related to cities and climate change, including its complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, including through further normative work and expansion of its technical assistance to towns and cities on local action for the mitigation of urban-based greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

7. *Encourages* Governments, according to their circumstances and capacities, to promote sustainable criteria in planning and construction while taking into account access to clean water and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, urban and rural services, sustainable waste management and sustainable transport;

8. *Invites* Governments to promote participation and access of people, in particular the poor, to policies, programmes and projects related to access to basic services, including in housing, as a way to address the needs of rural and urban areas;

9. *Welcomes* the contributions of regional initiatives to mobilize public investment for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

10. *Encourages* the inclusion at the national and regional levels of the preparations for Habitat III, established, broad-based networks such as the Associations of Ministers of Housing and Urban Development for Africa, Asia and Latin America, national Habitat committees, Associations of Cities and Local Authorities, Habitat professional forums and civil society organizations;

11. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 66/207, which recognized the continuing need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and invites the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to revise adequately the resources allocated by the regular budget for UN-Habitat, in order to strengthen its capacity to better implement its mandate;

13. *Invites* Governments to promote sustainable urbanization and the role of local authorities in their national development policies and programmes, and to consider including sustainable cities and human settlements in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, including effective and inclusive urban governance, integrated urban planning and design, job creation policies and equitable access to basic services;

14. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-seventh session the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its substantive session of 2013 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.